Matthews, Shailer [Chicago University] Dec. 1914

December 7th, 1914

Professor Shailer Matthews,

Chicago University.

My dear Professor Matthews:

The war has aroused intense popular feeling against our retaining German professors on our staff. This I have resisted, but I think the situation would be eased if I could arrange an exchange for next term with professors in American Universities who are not German or Austrian and who are not known to sympathise with these countries.

The professor about whom I am most concerned is Dr. Immanuel Benzinger, a very well-known Semitic scholar, whom we have had on our staff for two years as full professor. He has given complete satisfaction to us as a man and as a teacher, and I hope that we shall not permanently lose his services. If some American University would take him for the next term and send us one of their staff, who could teach Arabic particularly with a certain amount of Hebrew, we might for the present be able to come through our troubles with less distress. I am writing to Harvard and Yale also.

I am using all my power to protect these gentlemen from groundless attacks, but in war time people's passions get overheated. Would you be kind enough to wire me at our expense whether you would be willing to make an exchange and can find it possible to do so, provided I can arrange matters on this side for his transfer ? With kind regards,

I am, Yours sincerely,

President.

December 18th, 1914

Dean Shailer Matthews,

University of Chicago.

My dear Dean Matthews:

Many thanks for your letter. I greatly regret that there is no Orientalist with whom Benzinger might be exchanged in Chicago. I have unfortunately had the same kind of information from Harvard and Yale. I am now waiting to hear from Pennsylvania and New York. I suppose you do not know any other institution to which I could apply. With many thanks and with the season's greetings,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.